

# Aleutian Canada Goose Road to Recovery

Retain

Delist

**1750**—First known introduction of foxes onto Aleutian Islands.

**1750-1936**—Arctic foxes and red foxes introduced to at least 190 islands within the breeding range of the Aleutian Canada goose in Alaska.

**1811**—First complaints from Aleut Natives that foxes had caused severe declines in birds that had once been numerous.

**1938-1962**—Aleutian Canada geese were not found on any of the islands where they historically nested; thought to be extinct.

**1962**—Fish and Wildlife Service biologist found remnant population on remote Buldir Island in the western Aleutian Islands. Population estimated at between 200 and 300 birds.

**1963**—Goslings captured to start first captive flock for propagation.

**March 1967**—The Aleutian Canada goose was officially declared an endangered species under the Endangered Species Protection Act of 1966 (law that preceded the Endangered Species Act).

**1971-1991**—Captive-reared and translocated wild Aleutian Canada geese released on fox-free islands.

**1973**—Passage of the Endangered Species Act.

**1973-1984**—Hunting closures implemented for Aleutian Canada geese on wintering and breeding grounds.

**1975**—Recovery team begins developing formal recovery program. Spring population estimate 790 birds.

—Recovery actions implemented including the removal of foxes from breeding grounds on the Aleutian Islands and translocation of geese to unpopulated islands.

**1984**—Geese began to breed successfully on the islands. Foxes removed from four islands.

**1990**—Populations reached 6,300 geese.

**December 1990**—The Aleutian Canada goose was reclassified from endangered to the less imperiled threatened status. Recovery plan was revised, establishing objectives for measuring recovery and indicating when delisting was appropriate.

**1990-1998**—Recovery plans continue to be implemented. Population averages 20% annual growth rate.

**1999**—Populations reach more than 30,000 geese, over four times the original goal for delisting.

**July 1999**—The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service proposed to delist the species, opening a 90 day public comment period.

—Fish and Wildlife Service evaluates comments.

**March 2001**—Fish and Wildlife Service removes the Aleutian Canada Goose from the list of endangered and threatened species. The goose will be managed and protected by the Migratory Bird Treaty Act.

—The FWS will continue to monitor the Aleutian Canada goose with the help of the states for five years.

—If populations decline significantly, the species can be relisted.

**2005**—If the status remains stable or improves, monitoring is no longer required under the ESA.